

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated March 16, 2007, and are being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. Claims 1-10, 13, 14, and 17-25 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner (1) indicated that claims 2, 5, 14, and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; (2) rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 17-22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated; and (3) rejected claims 6-10 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious.

Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that each of the pending claims is patentable over the cited references. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicants want to patent now, applicants have amended the claims according to the subject matter indicated to be allowable and have canceled all other claims not encompassed by the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of all pending claims.

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I. Amendments to the Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 5, 14, and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, applicants have amended the claims to cancel all subject matter alleged by the Examiner to be non-allowable and to generate independent claims corresponding to allowable claims 2, 5, 14, and 24. The status of all claims is summarized in the following table:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Status</u>
1 (Independent)	Allowable - amended to include all subject matter of <u>allowable claim 2</u>
2	Canceled
3-6	Allowable for depending from claim 1
7-12	Canceled
13 (Independent)	Allowable - amended to include all subject matter of <u>allowable claim 14</u>
14-16	Canceled
17-20	Allowable for depending from claim 13
21-23	Canceled
24 (Independent)	<u>Allowable claim 24</u>
25-27	Canceled
28 (Independent)	Allowable - new claim 28 is equivalent to claim 1 amended to include all subject matter of <u>allowable claim 5</u>

II. Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office action, the Examiner paraphrased the claimed invention as part of the stated reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter (page 7, second paragraph). Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the allowability of the subject matter, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicants believe that the subject matter is allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

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III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering all of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

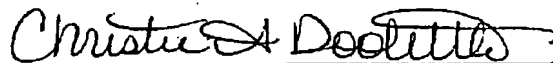
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner J. Severson, Group Art Unit 3653, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on June 18, 2007.



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